

**CLAIMS**

We claim:

1. A method of analyzing a claim in a patent or patent application, comprising:
  - a. retrieving a patent claim which has been rendered into a format parsable by a computer program into a computer memory;
  - b. parsing the claim into a set of discrete elements;
  - c. categorizing each element in the set of elements according to a predetermined rule; and
  - d. storing a set of categorized elements in a data store.
2. The method of claim 1, wherein:
  - a. parsing further comprises at least one of (i) semantic indexing, (ii) latent semantic indexing, (iii) rules based parsing, or (iv) free form parsing.
3. The method of claim 1, wherein parsing further comprises:
  - a. identifying each keyword set in each element, the keyword set comprising at least one of (i) a noun, (ii) an adjective and a noun, (iii) a verb, or (iv) an adverb and a verb.
4. The method of claim 3, wherein:
  - a. each keyword set further comprises a modifier to categorize the keyword set, the modifier comprising at least one of (i) a modifier identifying the keyword set as a necessary keyword set or (ii) a modifier identifying the keyword set as a non-necessary keyword set.

5. The method of claim 3, wherein:
  - a. the stored set of categorized elements is stored in an interrogatable database.
6. The method of claim 5, wherein:
  - a. the categorization attribute is at least one of (i) a necessary attribute, (ii) a non-necessary attribute, (iii) a useful attribute, (iv) a non-useful attribute, or (v) a correlation attribute.
7. The method of claim 3, wherein:
  - a. a predetermined number of keyword sets are logically paired with at least one other keyword set.
8. The method of claim 1, wherein:
  - a. categorizing further comprises correlating each element with at least one category in a database of categories.
9. The method of claim 1, further comprising:
  - a. assigning a rating weight to each categorized element.
10. The method of claim 1, further comprising:
  - a. filtering a claim based on the categorized elements, filtering further comprising logically marking only those categorized elements which meet a predetermined rule for the filtering.
11. A method of analyzing a patent against a portfolio of patents, comprising:
  - a. initializing a portfolio of patents in an interrogatable format;
  - b. selecting a patent from the portfolio of patents for analysis;
  - c. parsing each of a predetermined set of claims of the selected patent into a set of elements; and

- d. generating a rating of each parsed claim of the predetermined set of claims of the selected patent using a predetermined weighting rule.
12. The method of claim 11, wherein:
- a. the rating is generated according to a database of functions.
13. The method of claim 11, further comprising:
- a. using a predetermined rule to identify a best claim of the predetermined set of claims of the patent.
14. The method of claim 11, further comprising:
- a. sorting the rated claims according to a rate sorting rule.
15. The method of claim 14, wherein:
- a. the rate sorting rule comprises at least one of (i) a sort based on a rating and on a number of elements present in each claim of the patent, (ii) a sort based on a rating and on a number of elements present in each claim of the selected patent where the elements are further marked as necessary or non-necessary, or (iii) a sort based on a rating and on a number of elements present in each claim of the patent where the elements are further marked as useful or non-useful.
16. The method of claim 11, wherein:
- a. patents comprises issued patents and patent applications.
17. A system for patent analysis, comprising:
- a. a data store;
  - b. a computer operatively connected to the data store; and
  - c. a parsing program executable in the computer, the parsing program capable of parsing a patent claim into a set of discrete elements, categorizing each element in

the set of discrete elements according to a predetermined rule, and storing a set of categorized elements in the data store.

18. The system of claim 17, further comprising:
  - a. a rating program executable in the computer, the rating program capable of assigning a rating weight to each categorized element.
19. The system of claim 17, wherein:
  - a. the parsing program is further useful to identify one or more keyword sets in the parsed claim, the keyword set comprising at least one of (i) a noun, (ii) an adjective and a noun, (iii) a verb, or (iv) an adverb and a verb.
20. The system of claim 19, further comprising:
  - a. a database of language equivalents useful to correlate a keyword set in a first expression to a keyword set in a second expression.